

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10

NSAE-00 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-05

NSC-05 H-01 L-03 DHA-05 /133 W

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R 310600Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 2305N

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SF, GW, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD CODE OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

REF: PRETORIA 3382 (NOTAL); JOHANNESBURG 2137 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: POST WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INFORMATION ON REPORTED OECD PLANS TO WORK OUT AN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID CODE OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES IN VIEW OF ITS RELEVANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS (CHIEFLY OF PRIVATE INITIATIVE RECENTLY) AND THE INTEREST OF ENLIGHTENED ELEMENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN MULTILATERAL ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDI NG TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, WEST GERMAN STATE MINISTER KLAUS VON DOHNANYI ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE THAT THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC  
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COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT IS EXPECTED TO WORK OUT A CODE OF CONDUCT TO COMBAT APARTHEID WHICH WOULD BE ADHERED TO WITH APPROPRIATE MODIFICATIONS BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

3. IN VIEW OF OUR PROPOSAL THAT CONSIDERATION BE GCVEN TO US ASSOCIATION WITH MULTILATERAL ACTION ON EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES IN SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH THE OECD (PRETORIA 3382) , WE WOULD BE

INTERESTED IN WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ADDRESSES CAN FURNISH ON THE GERMAN MINISTER'S REPORTED PRESS STATEMENT. WE NOTE THAT THE JUNE 21, 1976 OECD DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISE, PARTICULARLY THE SECTION ON EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, APPEARS TO ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT FOR A SOUTH AFRICAN CODE OF CONDUCT.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH SUPPORTERS OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED SOUTH AFRICAN URBAN FOUNDATION (JOHANNESBURG 2137) HAVE REVEALED THAT INTEREST ALSO EXISTS WITHIN ENLIGHTENED ELEMENTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTILATERALLY SPONSORED STANDARDS AIMED AT ELIMINATING INSTITUTIONALIZED DISCRIMINATION IN THE EMPLOYMENT FIELD. ZAC DE BEER OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION TOLD THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO COORDINATE A PROPOSED URBAN FOUNDATION CODE WITH SIMILAR INITIATIVES BY BRITISH INDUSTRIALISTS AND THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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